

YELLOW-FRUITED ILEX VERTICILLATA. — In a recent excursion into the country to collect and compare the different forms of *Carya* and *Quercus*, to notice the effects of frost on the foliage, and incidentally to visit the new pumping station for the water supply of the city of New Bedford, located in Lakeville, fourteen miles from the city, I had the good fortune to find something novel and interesting.

On leaving the electric car at Lakeville, I walked down a new road, recently opened through the woods, to the beautiful lake known as Little Quittacus, distant half a mile from the main road. After proceeding about half the way, I espied by the roadside a clump of bushes bearing a bright yellow berry, so unlike any other fruit as to arrest the attention at once. Although but a few scattered leaves remained upon the bushes, they were easily identified as a form of *Ilex verticillata*, Gray, being, in fact, the forma *chrysocarpa*, Robinson, RHODORA, 2, 106, of which the only previously recorded station is Georgetown, Massachusetts.

In the immediate vicinity there were many bushes bearing the normal scarlet berries, but a thorough search for other specimens of this rare variety was without avail. Passers by had evidently had their curiosity awakened, for a large branch of the golden berries was thrown carelessly by the roadside. This yellow-fruited form of our common black alder is, I find, in cultivation at the Arnold Arboretum, and there, as in its wild state, exhibits an earlier defoliation than neighboring specimens of the typical red-fruited variety. — E. WILLIAMS HERVEY, New Bedford, Massachusetts.

POLYGALA POLYGAMA, VAR. ABORTIVA MERELY AN AUTUMNAL STATE. — It is a well-known fact that *Polygala polygama*, Walt., bears normally two kinds of flowers, namely, the conspicuous ones with well-developed corolla, and the small pale or greenish cleistogamous flowers. The former are borne in terminal racemes, while the latter are usually confined to short basal shoots which often push themselves under the leaf-mould or surface soil. In his detailed monograph of the genus *Polygala*,¹ however, Professor Chodat described as var. *abortiva*, a supposed form of *P. polygama* in which short racemes of cleistogamous flowers arose also from the upper axils, even the terminal raceme sometimes bearing only reduced

¹ Mém. Soc. Phys. Hist. Nat. Genève, xxxi. pt. 2. no. 3, 280.